

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Commission Chambers Room 105, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls MT 59401
and Via Zoom Webinar

Members Present:

Matt Martin, DDS
Bob Kelly
Dr. Geyer, DO
Amanda Ball

Staff/Visitors Present:

Bowen Trystianson—Interim Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight—County Attorney, Phoebe Marcinick—County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz—Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Laura Brusky—Environmental Health, Rachel Doran—MT Connect Coordinator, Kendal Nagel, Abigail Hill, Carrie Nyssen, Katie Brewer, Nicole Girten, John Firehammer, Wade Stout, Beth Morrison, Kristin Page-Nei, Barbara Bissette, Meghan Haynes, Emily Hovland, Katelynn Lombard, Matthew McGuyer, Brianna Olson, Samantha Payne, Kristina Rauscher, Emma Simpson, Stasha Sokolowski, Olesia Soldyshev, Serenity Wolfe, Christy Buttler Neson

Dr. Martin opened the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Tom Moore and Joe Briggs were excused.

Ms. Ball joined the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

A quorum was established at 11:49 a.m.

Agenda Item #1 was taken out of order.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from January 5, 2022, BOH Meeting: Dr. Martin

Mr. Kelly made a motion, "...that we accept the minutes as entered and approve the minutes." Dr. Geyer seconded the motion. There were no public comments. With all board members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

2. COVID-19: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the COVID-19 Report.

- COVID-19 continues to be widely spread throughout the community.
- Case numbers have slightly decreased.
- The Montana Department of Public Health and Human services (DPHHS) altered COVID-19 reporting process. The State now opens a case when a positive COVID-19 result is received versus the local jurisdiction opening the case. The local jurisdiction continues follow-up and investigation. The new method provides a more accurate picture of COVID-19 daily case numbers.
- CCHD received free at-home COVID-19 test kits from the State.
 - Test kits are distributed daily from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - CCHD is distributing test kits to individuals, and to local businesses/organizations to improve community access to kits.
 - Mr. Trystianson will coordinate with Cascade County Department Heads to distribute test kits for County employees.
- Local health care facilities continue to see high utilization of services.

3. BOH Governing Body Update: Ms. Haight

Ms. Haight provided the BOH “governing body” update.

- The County received declaratory relief paperwork from the City Attorney’s office.
- Ms. Haight will be acknowledging the declaratory relief.
 - The acknowledgement starts the County’s clock to respond to the declaratory relief action.
 - There have been no discussions while awaiting the resolution outcome.
 - The current agreement, which appoints the County as the temporary “governing body”, is effective through June (end of fiscal year).
- The declaratory relief petition is filed with Judge Best in the District Court.
 - Judge Best has the right to decline to accept jurisdiction on the case.
 - If needed, the temporary “governing body” agreement could be extended.

4. Health Officer Hiring Process Update: Dr. Martin

Dr. Martin inquired if there were any updates on potential Health Officer applicants. Ms. Haight is in contact with County Human Resources and is unaware of any additional applicants.

- Dr. Martin and Ms. Haight will request Commissioner Briggs add hiring of the new Health Officer to the County Commission meeting agenda.
- Dr. Martin and Mr. Briggs have not had a chance to discuss the Board’s applicant interview process recommendations.

5. Family Health Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Family Health Services Report.

- A WIC Nutrition Aide position is open and will be posted due to a resignation within the division.

6. Environmental Health Report: Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- The division is down 2.5 full-time employees.
 - 1 - Environmental Health Division Manager position open due to resignation of Dr. Grobe. His last day was January 28, 2022. The position, which also acts as a working Sanitarian, will be posted.
 - 1 - Sanitarian position remains open and posted.
 - .5 - Sanitarian position is vacant due to an individual reducing hours to part-time.
- Division and Program Responsibility Review
 - The division reviewed cutting back on services not required by the State due to staffing levels. The following services will be discontinued:
 - Pool Inspections will be returned to the State.
 - Subdivision review will be returned to The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
 - The division is reviewing ways to streamline work including:
 - Reducing time spent on temporary food events.
 - Shifting rabies bite investigations to Prevention Services.
 - The DEQ Air Quality contract is under review for a reduction in time allotted to the contract.
- The division must maintain licensed establishment inspections and septic permitting.
- 2021 – Licensed Establishment Inspections
 - 87% - Overall licensed establishment inspection rate. The State provides full reimbursement if a 90% inspection rate is achieved and a per inspection rate if the 90% is not achieved. Swimming pool inspections impacted overall results.
 - 90% - Licensed Food inspection rate was achieved.
- Septic Installer Training occurred on January 27, 2022, with a total of 16 participants.
- Farmers’ Market
 - The division will attend the Spring Vendor Meeting in March and speak with participating vendors regarding regulatory requirements.

- SB 199, passed in the 2021 Legislative Session, reduced regulations on certain homemade food items. Ms. Johnson will provide an update on impacts in the next meeting.

7. Superfund Site Report: Ms. Johnson

- Black Eagle
 - Operable Unit 1 (OU1)
 - The Department of Environmental Quality (EPA) is scheduled to send notice letters to responsible parties, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and Burlington Northern, related to OU1 and the railroad corridor.
 - These notice letters initiate the consent decree negotiation process which determines how remedial action (cleanup) will occur.
 - Cleanup could potentially begin in 2023.
 - ARCO will meet with individual property owners to discuss cleanup of their properties.
 - ARCO and/or Burlington Northern will meet with Cascade County to discuss cleanup of Art Higgins Park and the railroad corridor.
 - Operable Unit 2 (OU2)
 - A meeting will occur next week with representation from the County, the Black Eagle Park Board, and Water and Environmental Technologies (WET) to discuss incorporation of concepts from the land use plan (improve access and trail connectivity in Art Higgins Park) into the remedial design.
 - Sampling is still in process for the area.
- Neihart
 - EPA is still in process of obtaining a new contractor. A contractor is required to oversee and complete the cleanup.

8. Prevention Services Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Prevention Services Report.

Communicable Disease Report

- COVID-19 cases remain high.
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STI) activity, particularly syphilis, is a continued concern.
- RSV and Influenza Activity
 - Cases are potentially higher than what is reflected in the report.
 - RSV is impacting children, adults, and the elderly.
 - Influenza season will be unusual with the mix of COVID-19 along with Influenza cases.
 - 20 - seasonal Influenza cases to date.

Tobacco/Cigar Bar Update: Wade Stout / Bowen Trystianson

Mr. Stout and Mr. Trystianson provided an update on the Omerta Cigar Lounge in Great Falls.

- Mr. Stout, CCHD Tobacco Prevention Specialist, expressed concern in maintaining the integrity of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) which requires all enclosed public places and workplaces to be smoke-free. (M.C.A. 50-40-104)
- Mr. Trystianson provided a brief overview and history.
 - Several cigar clubs have opened across the State in Bozeman, Billings, Missoula, and one pending in Helena. There is currently no active litigation regarding cigar clubs in Montana.
 - The Children's Museum of Missoula previously filed suit against the Fools' End Club in Missoula due to secondhand smoke leaking into the museum.
 - The Fools' End Club held the position their club is private without any employees therefore not under CIAA regulations.
 - The Judge issued an Order on Cross-Motions for Partial Summary Judgment. Due to the Children's Museum of Missoula moving into another location which eliminated the "open to the public" element of a CIAA violation, further prosecution of the Complaint was not possible.

- The Omerta Cigar Lounge is a private cigar club opening in downtown Great Falls. The space of the building is shared with a public business.
- The lounge has not opened yet so there have been no formal complaints.
- There are concerns within the community regarding setting a precedent and weakening the CIAA.
- Mr. Trystianson spoke with the Montana State DPHHS Tobacco Prevention Division.
 - DPHHS' advised to take a "wait and see" approach if local proactive action was not being taken to see if complaints come through the Clean Air Reporting System (CARS) for violations.
 - Mr. Trystianson advised he felt it would be prudent and reasonable to follow DPHHS' guidance.
- The Board agreed to monitor the situation and investigate if CARS complaints are received.

Administration Report: Mr. Trystianson

Mr. Trystianson provided the Administration Report.

- 1 - PHEP Coordinator Position open due to resignation of Mr. Haivala. His last day was January 28, 2022. The position will be posted.
- Mr. Trystianson presented at the City Commission Meeting on the Health of the community.

Finance

- Immunization revenue is posted.
- The agency continues to bill for flu clinics.
- CCHD is working with Big Sky Billing and Office Management to enter the charges into the system. This will also help CCHD move forward with quality improvement of expedited immunization billing.
- CCHD submitted an order for next year's flu vaccines which will increase immunizations expenditures on the report.

2021 Final Strategic Action Plan / Quality Improvement Plan

Mr. Trystianson reviewed the 2021 Final Strategic Action Plan and Final Quality Improvement Plan Report with the Board.

- Overall, the agency did remarkably well despite COVID-19 and staffing levels impacts.
- QI improvement projects outlined in 2022 will continue to utilize the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

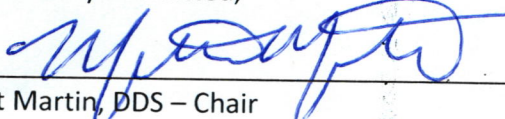
10. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Adjournment

Dr. Martin adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Matt Martin, DDS – Chair

March 7, 2022
 Date